

CDF NEWS RELEASE

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection



TUOLUMNE-CALAVERAS UNIT



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The Leonard Fire Update

San Andreas- Steve Lombardo, Incident Commander of the Leonard Fire, said "large flames and huge plumes of smoke observed by local residents today were the result of a successful backfiring operation. Aerial and hand firing techniques removed fuels inside containment lines as planned." Firing operations will continue tomorrow but should be finished by the end of the day. The fire is now 60% contained and has consumed 4395 acres. Personnel committed to the fire now totals 1,565. Containment is estimated for Saturday, August 25, 2001, at 6:00 P.M. with control gained by Tuesday, August 28, 2001.

Tomorrow morning an inversion layer is expected to create heavy smoke in the San Andreas area. Dr. Kelaita, Calaveras County Health Officer, reminds residents that persons with asthma or other respiratory disease, the elderly and small children should avoid going outdoors. "As a precaution, avoid outdoor exercise and strenuous activities," said Kelaita. Anyone with health problems related to air quality should contact their private physician or in the event of a medical emergency call 9-1-1.

PG& E crews worked quickly replacing burnt poles in order to restore lost power to residents in the San Andreas area.

Doster Road and Hawver Road remain closed. For information regarding road access or restrictions, call the **CHP San Andreas Office from 8:00 AM until 5:00 PM at 754-3541** and at their Stockton Dispatch center **after 5:00 PM at 943-8600**.

An evacuation center is located at the Calaveras High School in the old gymnasium, located off Highway 49 in San Andreas. People are reminded to use Gold Strike Road for access to the center. Red Cross signs are located on Gold Strike Road. If you are trying to find friends or relatives call the **Red Cross at 533-1513**.

Calaveras County Fairgrounds has a temporary animal shelter in operation. Sufficient donations have been received at this time. For assistance with evacuating animals, call **Animal Control at 754-6509**.

Local residents may call the 24-hour **CDF Fire Information Center at 754-5773, 754-4692, and 754-5527**. Other information may be found at the CDF Website at www.fire.ca.gov and the County's Website at www.co.calaveras.ca.us.

